

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2005.

Claim Objection

Claims 3, 8-9, 19, and 22 were objected to because of informalities. The applicants do not concede the correctness of the objection, but to expedite the process have amended the claims appropriately. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejected claims 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, "claims 31-33 recite Al_2O_3 however, it is misdescriptive since claim 30, from which they depend from, include multiple recitations of that material in different portions of the slider." Claims 31-33 have been accordingly amended and claim 35 has been canceled. The Examiner's acceptance of the amendment and withdrawal of the rejection in view thereof are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 in View of Lille

The Office Action rejected claims 3-4, 9-10, 13, 15-17, 19-20, 22-23 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lille, U.S. Patent No. 6,587,314. However, the Lille reference does not teach each element of amended independent claims 3, 9 or 19. The Lille reference does not disclose, "an air bearing surface formed in the front portion and rear portion and having a change in elevation at an interface that separates the front portion and the rear portion; and a transducer basecoat portion formed on and integrated with the rear portion of the slider body containing the transducer," as does claim 3 of the present invention. The Lille reference, as shown in Figure 3, depicts a substantially smooth slider structure 300. Slider 358 does not have an elevation change and for arguments sake, there is no

elevation change in silicon chip 354 either, which is required by claim 9. Accordingly, independent claim 3 and its dependent claim 4 are not anticipated by Lille.

Independent claim 9 requires, "forming on the layer of second material a transducer basecoat portion integral with the layer of second material of the slider body and containing a transducer, wherein the transducer basecoat portion also comprises the second material." The Lille reference teaches that a silicon wafer is first fabricated and then bonded to a slider body. (Column 6, lines 61-62; FIGS. 9-10). Therefore, Lille does not teach or suggest "forming on the layer of second material a transducer basecoat portion integral with the layer of second material of the slider body and containing a transducer, wherein the transducer basecoat portion also comprises the second material."

Further, claim 9 requires "defining an air bearing surface on the composite wafer, the air bearing surface comprising a leading portion corresponding with the first material and a trailing portion corresponding with the second material positioned behind the leading portion, and having a change in elevation at an interface that separates the layer of first material and the layer of second material." As recited above, Lille does not teach or suggest a change "in elevation at an interface that separates the layer of first material and the layer of second material." Because the Lille reference does not teach each step of the claimed method, independent claim 9 and its dependent claims 10, 13, and 15-17 are not anticipated thereby.

Independent claim 19 requires, "an air bearing surface corresponding to the front portion and rear portion and having a change in elevation at an interface that separates the front portion and rear portion; and a transducer basecoat portion integral with the rear body portion of the slider body and containing the transducer." As recited above, Lille does not teach or suggest "a change in elevation at an interface that separates the front portion and rear portion; and a transducer basecoat portion integral with the rear body portion of the slider body and containing the transducer. Therefore, independent claim 19 and its dependent claims 20, 22-23 and 25-26 are not anticipated thereby.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-4, 9-10, 13, 15-17, 19-20, 22-23 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 in View of AAPA

The Office Action rejected claims 19-20, 23-26, 30-31, 33, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA). Claim 35 has been canceled. Independent claims 19 and 30 require "an air bearing surface corresponding to the front portion and the rear portion and having a change in elevation at an interface that separates the front portion and rear portion." The AAPA does not disclose each element of the amended claims.

The AAPA cited in Figs. 2A-2B fail to disclose any interface, much less an air bearing surface containing an interface 50 that has a change in elevation, as does the present invention (as shown in Figs. 5A-5B and 7A-7B). Therefore, independent claims 19 and 30 and their dependent claims 20, 23-26, 31, 33 are not anticipated by the AAPA and the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5-7, 11-12, 14, 18, 21, 30-31, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lille. With this Amendment claim 35 has been canceled. Claims 5-7 depend from claim 3; claims 11-12, 14 and 18 depend from claim 9; claim 21 depends claim 19; and claim 31 depends from claim 30 and are patentable for at least the reasons stated above. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 8 and 27-29 are allowable over the prior art of record.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 3-34 are allowable and respectfully request notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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